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<b>DA INTELLIGENCE REPORT</b> <i>(Use this form only in accordance with instructions in SR 380-305-5)</i>		<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>		COUNTRY REPORTED ON GDR
SUBJECT: <b>ELSNIG (UTM 33UUT 5620)</b> <b>Ammunition Depot (C)</b>				
SUMMARY:				
<p>Of Information: Report includes location and layout sketch (Incl 1), detailed construction data (Incl 2), and camouflage sketch (Incl 3) of depot's 32 ammunition bunkers; eight were completed in Dec 57, two had foundations completed in Dec 57, and 22 were scheduled for completion by end of 1958. Bunkers are of like construction and dimensions, and are assembled from prefabricated reinforced concrete sections, columns, and beams, on a concrete foundation poured at the site.</p>				
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Bunkers are 12 x 11 x 3.40 m, aboveground, moisture-insulated on all sides by three layers of tar paper, and are well camouflaged and reinforced by large amounts of earth on roofs and against walls. Present construction constitutes only first stage of project, upon completion of which, the second stage, presumably involving the reconstruction of the former WASAG explosives plant in the W section of area, will commence early in 1959. Source heard from engineer-in-charge that construction costs of the entire project were expected to total 48 million East marks by 1962.

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Ammunition Depot (C)

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**LOCATION**

: Covers 2.5 x 1.2 km, in mixed forest area 2 km W of RR station ELSNIG, with center of installation under construction at UTM 33UUT 547193; for pinpoint location and layout sketch see Inclosure 1.

(Numbers in parentheses correspond to those shown on Inclosure 1).

**OVERALL  
CAPACITY and  
ITEMS  
STOCKPILED**

: Entire construction project is divided into two separate sections; the E section with a total of 32 ammunition bunkers (8 completed, 2 under construction, and 22 scheduled for completion in 1958), and the W section, comprising the larger part of the project and still in the planning stage. In Sep 57, source was told by a civilian surveyor of the planning office Sued of the EGA (Ministry for National Defense), that in place of the dismantled former ELSNIG plant WASAG (Westphaelische-Anhaltische Sprengstoff A.G.), a new explosives plant with three large shops would be constructed in the W section. An existing concrete foundation (33), 200 x 30 m, now used for the production of pre-fabricated concrete columns and beams for ammunition bunkers under construction, was originally selected as the site upon which one of these shops would be constructed, but was discarded when probing revealed that the old concrete foundation showed cracks.

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the explosives plant will be constructed in adjacent areas of W-section. In source's opinion, bunkers will be used for storage of artillery ammunition; he bases this assumption on the fact that inspection teams of five to six EGA artillery officers, wearing the new field gray uniforms with red piping on trousers and shoulder boards, appeared once weekly to check on construction progress; present in each team were three officers whom source had seen daily while constructing artillery repair shops at an EGA artillery installation in DOBERLUG in 1956/57.

**BOTTLENECKS**

: Steel rods (18 and 22 mm in diameter), used for reinforcement, and embedded into concrete, arrived irregularly; gravel for concrete mixtures frequently failed

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**BOTTLENECKS**

: to arrive in time due to transportation and/or washing difficulties; spare parts for two concrete mixers, of which one was constantly out of order, were hard to obtain, and a truck frequently had to be dispatched to DRESDEN to pick up these parts.

**LABOR**

: An average of 82 workers have been working on construction of these bunkers since May 57; in addition 9 technicians, such as construction engineers, supervisors, and norm adjusters are at the site. An EGA artillery lieutenant (COLEBA, fnu), from the "Unterkunfts-Abteilung" in HALLE, served as control officer, checked work in progress and signed for completed work.

**STORAGE  
FACILITIES**

: 32 concrete bunkers, aboveground. Of these, 8 (1, 3, 5-10), were completed in Dec 57; 2 (2 and 4), are under construction, and 22 (11-32) are scheduled for completion by end of 1958.

All bunkers are of like dimensions (12 x 11 x 3.40 m), and construction, with 60 m between each bunker. Prefabricated reinforced concrete wall sections in two sizes (3 x 1.50 x 0.15 m and 1.50 x 1.50 x 0.15 m), and prefabricated reinforced concrete ceiling sections (3.25 x 0.50 x 0.15 m), are supplied by the concrete plant Bau-Union Sued in OTTENDORF-OKRILLA. Reinforced concrete columns in three sizes (3.55 x 0.30 x 0.40 m, 3.55 x 0.30 x 0.30 m, and 3.55 x 0.40 x 0.40 m), and reinforced concrete beams in three sizes (3.80 x 0.30 x 0.60 m, 3.25 x 0.30 x 0.40 m, and 1.80 x 0.30 x 0.40 m), are prefabricated at the project site. Concrete foundations and floors are poured at the construction site, after which prefabricated sections are assembled and construction proceeds. (For details of construction see Inclosure 2.)

Each bunker has one outer two-wing steel door 1.80 x 2.60 x 0.004 m at its entrance and, at a distance of 2 m, another inner two-wing steel door of like dimensions, followed by a two-wing wire door of the same size. Each of the four corners of the bunker has a brick ventilation shaft. A so-called fragmentation wall (Splitter-schutzwand), of concrete, flanks each side of the entrance extending 6 m from the outer steel door.

All connecting links of reinforcing rods in concrete prefabricated parts are interconnected by 10-mm-thick steel wire, running across the length and width of each bunker; interconnections are welded to the wire, which is thoroughly grounded as a special precaution against lightning, since the interconnecting wire system was specifically constructed to form an efficient lightning arrester.

When a bunker is completed, the outside walls and ceiling are completely covered with three layers of moisture-insulating tar paper (without sand); each layer is glued on separately after the glue of the preceding layer is well dried. Foundation and concrete flooring are likewise moisture-proofed by three layers of tar paper, glued

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STORAGE  
FACILITIES

: between a thin layer of concrete (poured on the ground), and the concrete foundation and flooring; by this means it is possible to completely insulate the entire bunker against dampness.

As soon as a bunker is finished a bulldozer covers it with dirt forming a slope 10 m long at an angle of 30° from level ground to 0.50 m above bunker's roof; the entire bunker, with the exception of the entrance door and ventilation shafts which protrude approximately 0.50 m from dirt on top of roofs, is thus camouflaged. Plans are to cover all dirt surfaces with grass to obtain a perfect camouflage. Bunkers are located in a forested area of 10 to 15-m-tall pine and beech trees and every effort has been made to preserve this natural camouflage; trees were cut only at actual construction sites and adjacent trees were left intact with no expense spared to preserve and facilitate their growth. Each bunker has trees growing through its dirt slopes; concrete rings (in halves), 1 m in diameter and 1 m in height, were placed above each other around these tree trunks thus allowing for sufficient ventilation around trunks where surrounded by dirt (see Inclosure 3). The comparatively thin concrete walls of the bunkers (15 cm thick) are considerably reinforced by the dirt camouflage sloping down from the roofs.

Concrete roads 3.5 to 5 m wide, with 3-m-wide concrete entrance and exit roads, afford easy access to each bunker entrance.

Approximately 50 m from outside bunkers, a system of interconnected double ditches, each 1.20 m wide and 0.20 m deep, forms an effective fire gap (Feuerschutzgraben); ditches were constructed for the main purpose of preventing spread of fire to ammunition bunkers from an outside area. Ditches are from 10-15 m apart and are interconnected by cross ditches approximately every 20 m; no growth of any kind will be allowed in them and they will not contain water.

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In Jan 58, [ ] a strip cleared of brush and undergrowth and marked for extension of the fire gap double ditch system to the future W construction site:

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## SECURITY

: Entire project area is surrounded by a 2-m-high barbed wire fence (40) supported by concrete posts spaced 4 m apart; nine strands of barbed wire, approximately 0.20 m apart, are strung across posts, with 5-mm plain wire intersecting barbed wire to form an "X".

Gate I, a wooden framework strung with barbed wire, is the main entrance to area in N. As of 10 Feb 58, a guard in the old blue VP uniform will be posted at this gate to check workers' passes.

Gate II, a wooden framework strung with barbed wire, serves as a second entrance to area in SW corner.

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**SECURITY**

: Since Dec 57, one guard, in old blue VP uniform, armed with a pistol, has been posted at this gate. Adjacent to this gate is a guardhouse (34) 8 x 6 m, of brick construction, with flat tar papered roof. Guardhouse was completed in Oct 57.

On 15 Jan 58, an EGA artillery lieutenant arrived to take charge of security of the object, designated by Bau-Union Sued as Nr 11-95, VOGELGESANG. Workers were told to turn in their old passes for new ones but as of date of source's defection (31 Jan 58), new passes had not been issued. 30 guards were to be hired as of 10 Feb 58; guards had to conform to the following requirements: a) must have no relatives in Western countries; b) never been in Western POW camps; c) must have no criminal record.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

: A transformer house (35), 4 x 4 m, of brick construction, with concrete roof, was completed in Oct 57, and is located in the vicinity of gate I. A second transformer house (36), 2 x 2 m, of brick construction, with concrete roof, was completed in Oct 57, and is located adjacent to the E fence. No equipment had been installed in transformer houses when source defected and a temporary power line supplied the construction site with operational electricity and lights.

Two wooden barracks (37, 38), each 50 x 8 m, with flat tar paper roofs, serve as billets, mess hall and office for project workers of VEB Bau-Union Sued; barracks are located within the fenced-in area, W of gate I.

A building complex, formerly a part of the WASAG explosives plant, located outside fenced-in area near gate I, is presently occupied by an apprentice home, where youths with criminal records are confined and learn a trade.

the EGA intends to oust the present occupants and will itself occupy the complete building complex at some future date; two EGA artillery officers, permanently stationed at the construction project, are already billeted in rooms which the institution had to place at their disposal. A machine tractor station (MTS), is also located within this building complex, for which new buildings are to be constructed in 1958 at first road intersection SW of ELSNIG. This represents additional evidence of the ultimate occupation of these buildings by the EGA.

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In May or Jun 57, [redacted]

[redacted] costs within the fenced-in area of the entire project were expected to total 48 million East marks by 1962; [redacted] the cost of one bunker at approximately 300,000 East marks and some of the workers even estimated the cost of one bunker at 500,000 East marks.

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In Jan 58, RR officials from an unknown office surveyed the site of a previously dismantled RR track (39).

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MISCELLANEOUS : leading from ELSNIG RR station to the construction project;  
Mar 58 this track will be relaid from the RR station to an unknown point within the project area.

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COMMENTS : THIS IS RAW UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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## 2. Remarks

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Possible construction of an explosives plant in this area, as indicated in the report, is of particular interest, also the unusual construction of ammunition bunkers

## 4 Inclosures:

1. Location and Layout Sketch
2. Construction Data of Bunkers
3. Bunker Reinforcements and Camouflage

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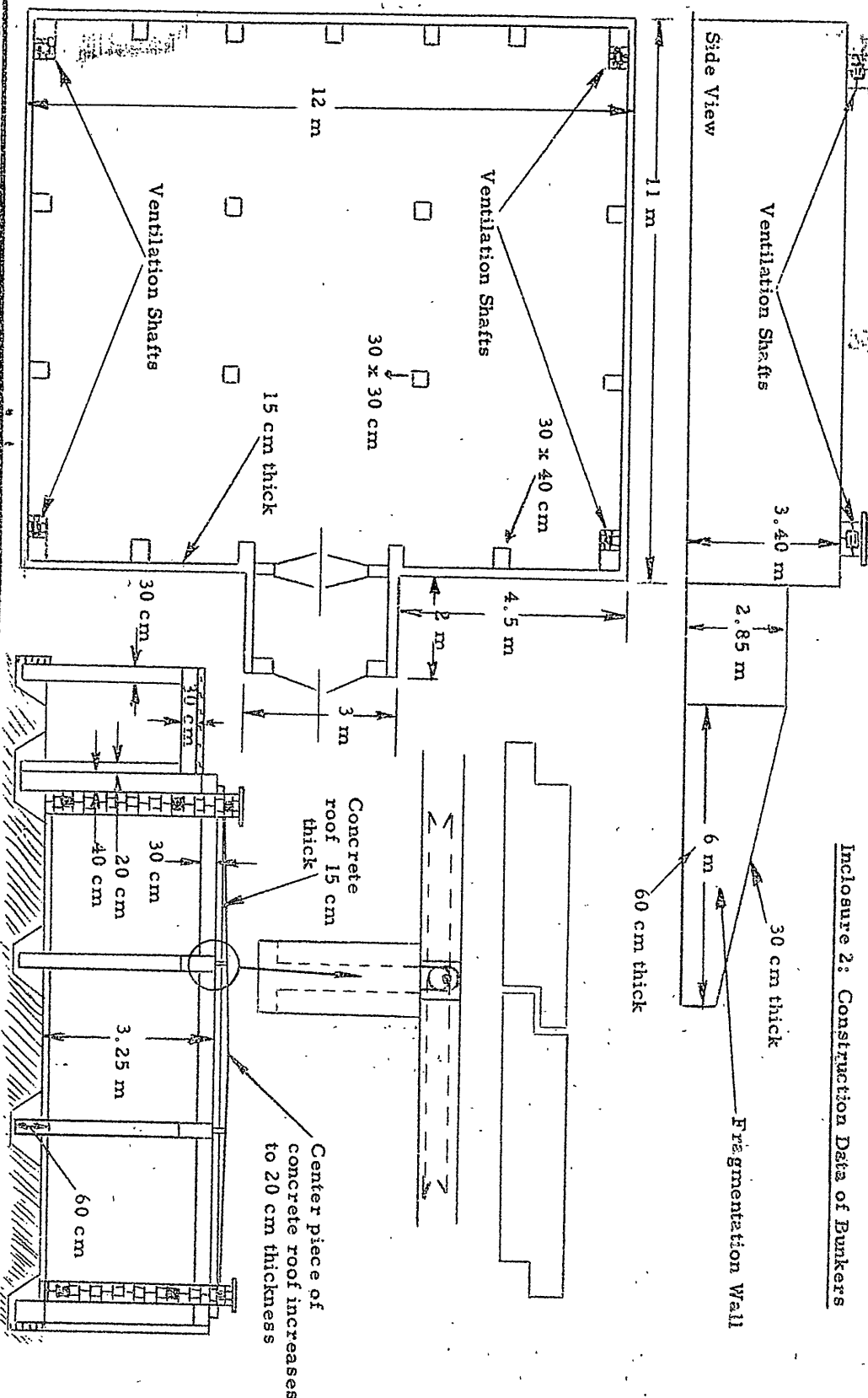
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ELSNIG (UTM 33UT 5620) Ammunition Depot (C)

Inclosure 2: Construction Data of Bunkers

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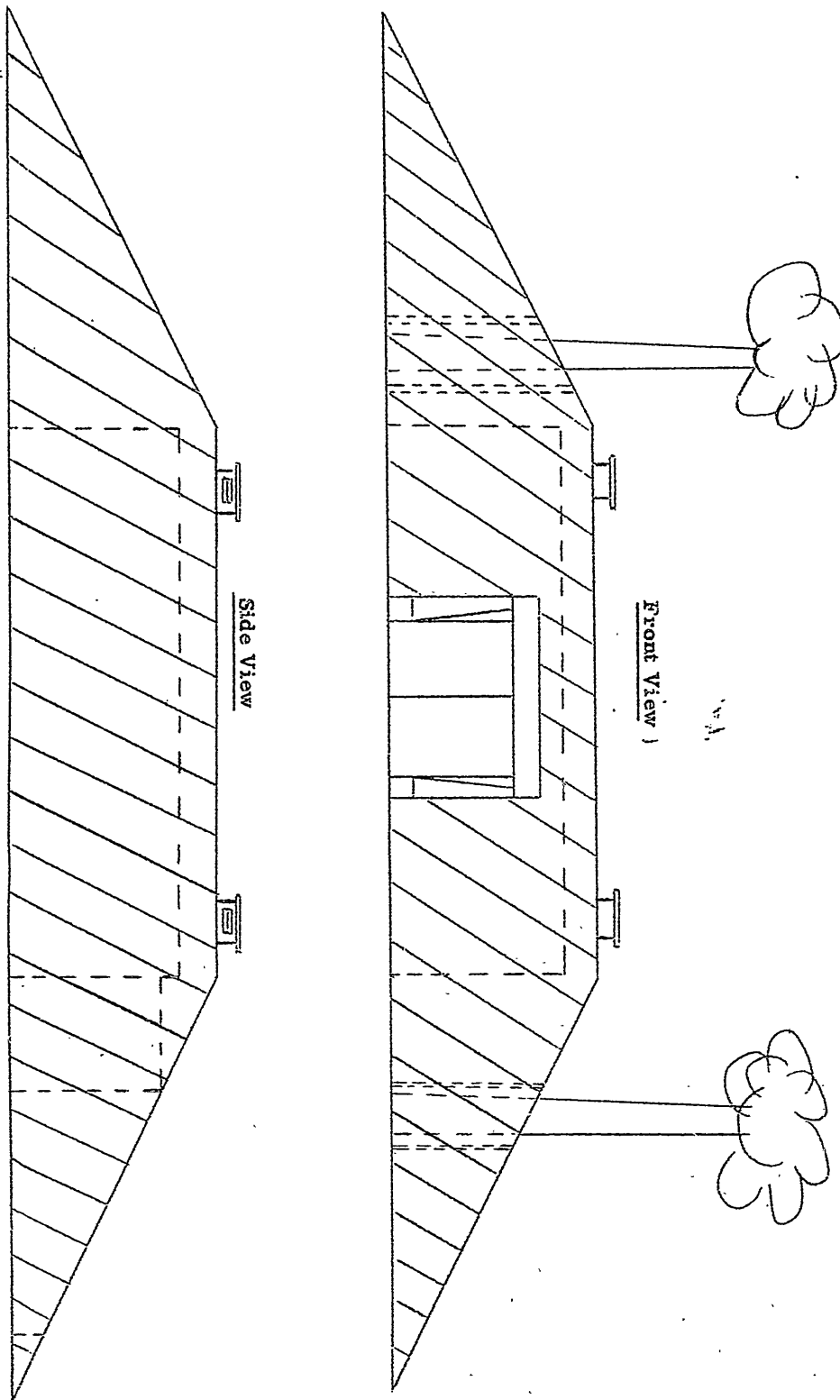
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EL SNIG (UTM 33UUT 5620) Ammunition Depot (C)Inclosure 3Bunker Reinforcements and Camouflage

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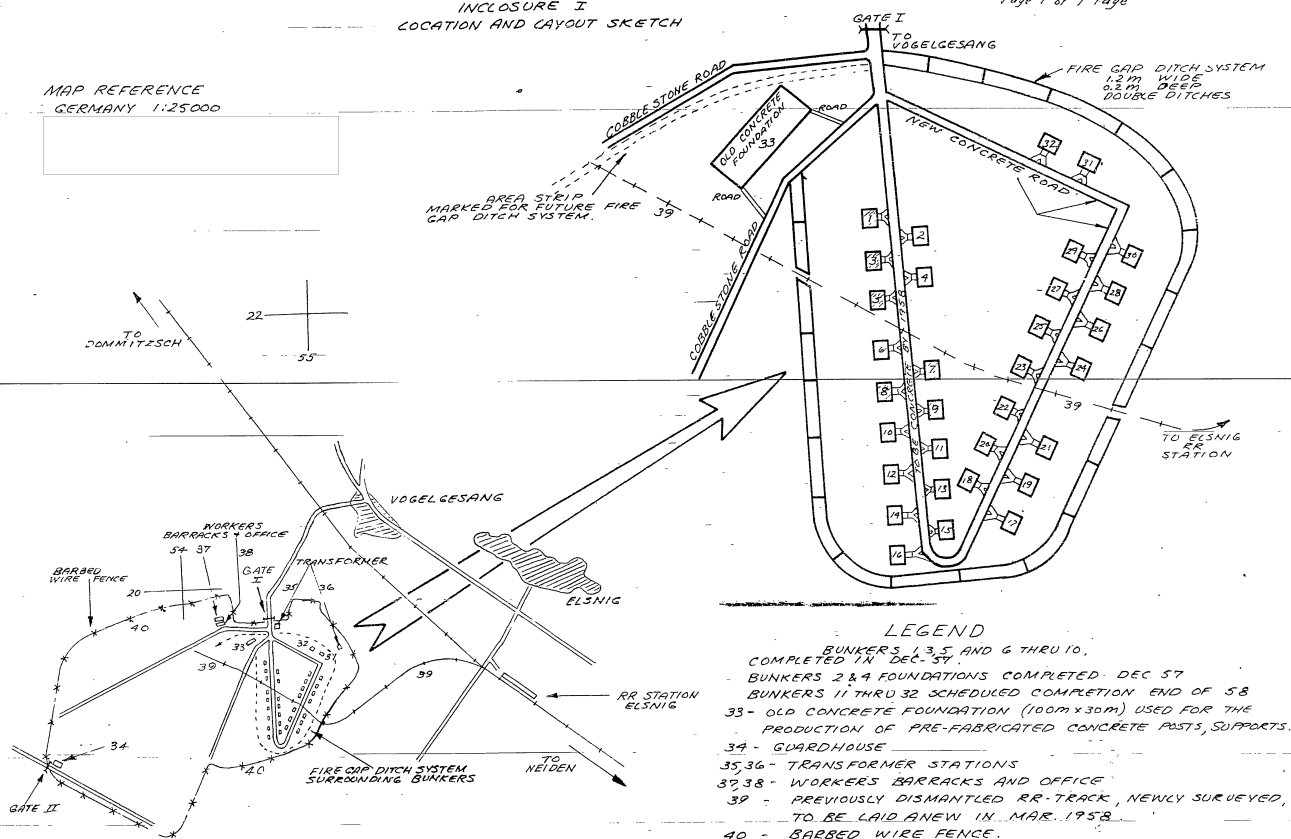
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 ELSNIG (UTM 33 UUT 5620) AMMUNITION DEPOT (C)  
 INCLOSURE I  
 LOCATION AND LAYOUT SKETCH

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MAP REFERENCE  
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